

WATER RIGHTS DIVISION, WCRB, PUBLIC HEARING 7-21-08

Hello, I am Jim Streng. I have been a member of the Auburn Dam Council for 22 years. My company, Streng Bros. Homes built homes in Sacramento and Yolo Counties. I was a member of the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors from 1986 to 1992. I am also a member and supporter of the Save the American River Association. I have great respect and admiration for much of the work the Save The American River Association has done and is doing to protect the American River. I do not support their position on the Auburn Dam.

Sacramento County had a referendum on the 1988 election ballot that asked voters if they favored or opposed the building of an Auburn Dam. The result of the controversial election was that Sacramento Voters overwhelmingly supported the building of an Auburn Dam. I believe an election today would be lopsided in favor of Auburn Dam.

An issue similar to the one before you occurred three decades ago. Cal-Trans in the 1970's planned and acquired right of ways for transportation corridors in Northeast Sacramento County that would have connected Hiways I 80 and US 50. The County had public hearings on whether to support the plans. Supporters of the transportation plans suggested that the highways may not have been needed in the 1970's however they pleaded that the right of ways be preserved because they might be needed in the future. Unfortunately the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors voted to ask Cal-Trans to abandon the right of ways and the State sold all the right of ways. Now, 30 years later, most Sacramento County citizens realize that a very bad decision had been made. The existing traffic congestion on Sacramento's surface streets could have been avoided. I view the work, plans, and land that exist today for the Auburn Dam the same as I viewed the State's right of ways in the 1970's, it doesn't cost anything or hurt anyone to save the permits and plans that exist for Auburn Dam.

Most of us expect there will be droughts, floods, and electric power shortages in the future. There may be other solutions that could solve these problems but probably one of the best solutions is to build the Auburn Dam. Please keep the option of a future Auburn Dam alive.

Thank you.